

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An adaptive method for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task-being-accessed-by-a user-on-a data-processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a plurality of attributes, the method comprising the machine-executed steps of:

- receiving information related to the plurality of text items in the indicative of the active computer task-being-accessed-by the user, the information including;
- for each of the plurality of text items and at least one stylistic attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items in the active task-being accessed-by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on the received information related to the plurality of text items;
- computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one stylistic attribute in the active computer task;
- for each of the plurality of text items in the active task-being accessed-by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights based on the statistical value and the at least one stylistic attribute;
- for each of the plurality of text items in the active task-being accessed-by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes;
- ranking the plurality of text items in the active task-being accessed-by the user based on the accumulated weight of assigned to each of the plurality of text items; and
- generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step; wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one stylistic attributeplurality of attributes includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink, and location of the text item.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein athe weight assigned to a wordat least one of the plurality of text items is increased in response to the word-text item being located in a specific regionof the active computer task.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the specific region is an active window being viewed by a user or a regionof the active computer task that is selected by the user.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming a plurality of search terms based on athe result of the ranking step.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task being accessed by a user on a data-processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a plurality of attributes, the system comprising:

a data processor for processing data;
a data storage device for storing instructions; and
a data transmission path coupled to the data processor and the data storage device;
wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, controls the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving information related to the plurality of text items in indicative of the active computer task, the information including being accessed by the user;
for each of the plurality of text items and at least one stylistic attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on

the received information;

computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one stylistic attribute in the active computer task;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights based on the statistical value and the at least one stylistic attribute;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes;

ranking the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user based on the accumulated weight of assigned to each of the plurality of text text items; and

generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;

wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one stylistic attributeplurality of attributes includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink, and location of the text item.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6 further comprising forming a plurality of search terms based on athe result of the ranking step.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A tangible-machine-readable medium bearing instructions for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task being accessed by a user on a data processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a plurality of attributes, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving information related to the plurality of text items in indicative of the active computer task, the information including being accessed by the user;

— for each of the plurality of text items and at least one stylistic attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on the received information;

computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one stylistic attribute in the active computer task;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights based on the statistical value and the at least one stylistic attribute;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes;

ranking the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user based on the accumulated weight of assigned to each of the plurality of text items; and

generating the representative text items based on the ranking of the plurality of text items;

wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 10--29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining properties of the active computer task;

wherein the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active task.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the properties of the active task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, a genre of the active computer task, attributes related to a user manipulating the active task, properties of an information source of which a search will be conducted, and a state of the active computer task.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 6, wherein:
the instructions, when executed by the data processor, further control the data processing system to determine properties of the active computer task; and
the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active computer task.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 32, wherein the properties of the active computer task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, a genre of the active computer task, attributes related to a user manipulating the active task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and a state of the active computer task.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:
the instructions upon execution by a data processing system cause the data processing system to determine properties of the active computer task; and
the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active task.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the properties of the active task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, a genre of the active computer task, attributes related to a user manipulating the active computer task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and a state of the active task.

Claim 36. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one stylistic attribute includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink.

Claim 37. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one style attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer.

Claim 38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one style attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 41. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 43. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one style attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer.

Claim 44. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one style attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 45. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 46. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 47. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 48. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 49. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one style attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer

Claim 50. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one style attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 51. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 52. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 53. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 54. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 55. (New) An adaptive method for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task, the method comprising:

receiving information indicative of the active computer task, the information including the plurality of text items and at least one field attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items;

computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one field attribute in the active computer task;

for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight based on the statistical value and the at least one field attribute;

ranking the plurality of text items based on the weight assigned to each of the plurality of text items; and

generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;

wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 59. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 60. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 61. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 62. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 63. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 64. (New) A data processing system for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task, the system comprising:

- a data processor for processing data;
- a data storage device for storing instructions; and
- a data transmission path coupled to the data processor and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, controls the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

- receiving information indicative of the active computer task, the information including the plurality of text items and at least one field attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items;
- computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one field attribute in the active computer task;

for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight based on the statistical value and the at least one field attribute;

ranking the plurality of text items based on the weight assigned to each of the plurality of text items; and

generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;

wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 65. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 66. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 67. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 68. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 69. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 70. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 71. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 72. (new) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 73. (New) A machine-readable medium bearing instructions for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active computer task, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving information indicative of the active computer task, the information including the plurality of text items and at least one field attribute associated with at least one text item in the plurality of text items;

computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one field attribute in the active computer task;

for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight based on the statistical value and the at least one field attribute;

ranking the plurality of text items based on the weight assigned to each of the plurality of text items; and

generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;

wherein the active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 74. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 75. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 76. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein the at least one field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 77. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein the at least one field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 78. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 72, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 79. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein assigning the weight is based on at least one of a genre of the active computer task, a type of the active computer task, and a subject matter of the active computer task.

Claim 80. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein assigning the weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 81. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 73, wherein assigning the weight is based on a location of a document associated with the active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.